Theft of Ancient Stone Idols from Jagannath Temple

1614. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA.
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantity of old and ancient stone idols have been stolen from the Sri Jagannath Temple complex during the recent repair and restoration work;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SEUA): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India is not aware about the theft of any old and ancient stone idols form the Jagannath Temple, Puri during the recent repair works.

(b) and (c) However, as per the F.I.R. lodged by the Chairman, Puri District citizens Forum, the matter is under investigation by State Authorities.

Decentralisation of Functioning of Government Schools

1615. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Administration has approved a proposal to decentralise its authority to rationalise the functioning of Government schools so as to tone up their performance;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the likely impact of such decentralisation on students and their studies ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) One of the recommendations of the Expert Committee appointed by the Delhi Administration is that the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973 be amended to extend the scope of their application to Govt. schools and to decentralize &debureaucratize the administration of education to make it accountable and responsive. Dglhi Administration has intimated that since this recommendation involves amendment of the Act, its implementation would have to wait till a Legislative Assembly is constituted for Delhi.

Microfilming of Estampages and Computerisation of Epigraphical Data

1616. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the microfilming and preservation of estampages and computerisation of epigraphical data under the Department of Archaeology;

(b) if so, what are the details in. this regard; and

(c) what is the expenditure likely to be incurred on this microfilming and computerisation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present for microfilming and computerisation of epigraphical data by the Archaeological Survey of India. However, necessary steps have been taken to preserve t*he* estampages.

(c) Does not arise.

Threat to stop fresh admissions in professional colleges

1617. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

{a) whether Government are aware that private professional colleges in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have threatened to stop admission for academic year 1993-94;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure smooth admission so that the admission seekers do not suffer; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any final policy for admission in these colleges, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The State Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are reported to have received representations from the private professional colleges expressing their difficulties and inability to admit students in accordance with the procedure laid down by the State Governments in the light of the Scheme laid down by the Supreme Court in their Judgement of 4-2-1993 in Unni Krishnan's case. Apart from pursuading the private managements to follow the procedure laid down by the State Governments the State Governments are committed to ensure truthful implementation of the Supreme Court Scheme which has already prescribed the parameters & methodology for admissions and fee structure in private professional colleges.

Early childhood care and learning facilities to children

1618. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that nearly 90 per cent of Indian children in the 3—6 years age group have no access to early childhood care and learning facilities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure that care and proper learning facilities reach the majority of the country's children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: (a) and (b) No, Sir. A large number of child population in the age group of 3—6 years (about 587 lakhs) have access to early childhood care and learning facilities in Government funded and privately managed child care centres. More than 100 lakhs children have access to early childhood care and learning facilities through various programmes of the Government of India such as Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Creches, Early Childhood Education, Balawadi Nutrition Programme etc. During 1992-93, 300 additional ICDS projects have been sanctioned. It is proposed to expand the scheme further during the current year in 200 Community Development Blocks.

Epigraphical survey of languages

1619. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of inscriptions in Prakrit, Sanskrit Dravadian, Persian and Arabic Languages in different part of the country copied and decipherd during the last three years by the Epigraphical Survey, language wise under the Department of Archaeology;

(b) how many out of them were from the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and how many from the rest of Maharashta and

(c) what steps are being taken for increasing the efficiency of the Epigraphical Survey?

THE DEPUTYMINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Details are given in the Statement (See below).

(b) Six inscriptions during the year 1990-91 and 19 inscriptions during the year 1992-93 have been copied in Maharashtra by the Epigraphy Branch of Archaeological Survey of India. However, no inscription has been copied from Vidarbha region.

(c) Archaeological Survey of India has established two sub-offices at Jhansi and Madras for Epigraphical Survey of the northern and southern regions respectively.

Statement

The number of inscriptions in Prakrit, Sanskrit, Dravidian, Local Dialect and Arabic and Persian languages copied and deciphered from different parts of the country during the last three years by the Directorate of Epigraphy are given below yearwise :

(Abbreviations used : PR = Prakrit, S = Sanskrit
D = Dravidian, L.D. = Local Dialect,
A and P = Arabic and Persian)